



# THE MOUNTAINEER

Walnut Mountain Property Owners' Association

Vol. 132

October 1, 2012

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- Oct 11 Garden Club Potluck & Meeting  
6:00 pm at the Clubhouse, all are invited
- Oct 20 WMPOA Board of Directors  
Meeting 9:00 am at the  
Clubhouse
- Oct 20 WMPOA Property Owners'  
Meeting 11:00 am at the  
Clubhouse
- Oct 20 Fall Clean-up (w/dumpster)
- Oct 21 Fall Clean-up (w/dumpster)
- Nov 3 Holiday Craft Show – at the  
Clubhouse 9am – 5pm
- Nov 4 Holiday Craft Show – at the  
Clubhouse 10am – 5pm
- Nov 8 Garden Club Potluck & Meeting  
6:00 pm at the Clubhouse, all are  
invited
- Nov 17 WMPOA Board of Directors  
Meeting 8:15 am at the  
Clubhouse
- Dec 8 Walnut Mountain Annual  
Christmas Party 6:30 pm  
(Reservation only)
- Dec 13 Garden Club Potluck & Meeting  
6:00 pm at the Clubhouse

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

By Lee Gilreath

Where in the world has summer gone? Better yet did we have a summer? I'm learning that as I get older (or should I say wiser) time seems to go by faster and faster. Here it is the middle of September and the leaves on many trees are beginning to change colors or falling to the ground. Some folks say this means we are going to have a cold winter. If I recall last year was supposed to be a bitter winter and thankfully we were spared. The moral of this story is to be prepared for whatever nature throws at us. The time is now to begin your winter preparations.

As most everyone is aware, the mountain is now purchasing processed water from Gilmer County. The final transfer from our privately produced water system to Gilmer County occurred on July 24, 2012. This process has been in the works for several years and is about the only thing that I feel has not gone by quickly. There are challenges that we face daily, but we were extremely fortunate the transition was completed smoother than expected.

One of those challenges is to regulate the chemical contents of the water which seem to vary depending on the quantity that is pumped through our entire system each day. Another item has to do with the smell and or taste that some residents are experiencing. I can only assure you that we are working with Gilmer County to correct and to produce a product that we can all enjoy and be proud of.

I hope you have noticed the new split rail fence that your maintenance staff has replaced recently along Turniptown Road. This Board of Directors is determined to improve some items that have been neglected due to a lack of funding. A first impression is usually a lasting impression and it is our desire to have visitors and potential home owners appreciate the beauty Walnut Mountain has to offer.

Further, improvements are being made to the campgrounds. The number of parking sites has been reduced from six to three. The electrical outlets have been modernized and in doing so we now have the ability to accommodate modern motor homes and campers. It is anticipated that a nominal increase in the daily fee will be approved next spring. Other projects to improve Walnut Mountain will be forthcoming and I will try my best to keep you all informed.

The Walnut Mountain Board of Directors would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make the Garage Sale a tremendous success.

**Don't miss the Property Owners' Meeting October 20.**

## **Fall Thoughts**

by Nicole Hawthorne



Suddenly, but with subtlety, the leaves are changing here on the Mountain. Have you noticed? There are so many things to love about fall on Walnut Mountain. Here are some of my favorites – and probably yours, too.

**The leaves** Really, need we say more? The colorful foliage that comes with the arrival of autumn can be simply spectacular, even breathtaking. We only wish it lasted longer. Taking pictures to capture the brief burst of color is a popular and highly recommended fall activity.

**The winds** The wind seems to pick up as fall approaches. In fact, it can get down right blustery, as my childhood friend Winnie-the-Pooh liked to observe of the weather in his beloved Hundred Acre Wood. So, too, can it here on our Mountain. Is there anything better than curling up next to a fireplace in the evening while the first winds of fall begin to howl around the eaves of our cozy cottages?

**The temperatures** After a long, humid and often blistering hot summer, there is nothing more refreshing than the relief that comes to the Mountain in the form of crisp mornings and chilly evenings. Dig out those sweaters and sweatshirts, wrap up in a blanket on the porch with a cup of hot chocolate or coffee and enjoy!

**The smells** Ah, the smells! Breathe deeply – cool, fresh air is punctuated by the aroma of the last cutting of grass. Wafts of smoke curl from our chimneys for the first time in months – a comforting odor that reminds us how blessed we are to have a home.

**The flavors** Fresh apples picked from local orchards find their way into scrumptious apple fritters and cider. Pumpkin pies fill our homes with smells so enticing you can't help but dig your fork in while it's still too hot to eat – the pain of a burnt tongue can be dealt with later. Pie simply cannot wait.

Fall and all of the wonderful things that come with it are upon us – get out and enjoy our beautiful Walnut Mountain this sweet season.

### **Walnut Mountain Fall Clean-up**

The **FALL CLEAN-UP** date is set. The dumpster will be located across from the office parking lot on **October 20 & 21<sup>st</sup>**.

A reminder of the items that MAY NOT go in the dumpster are as follows: Liquid chemicals, paint, lead paint, batteries (for example: no car, truck batteries), tires, oils, medical waste, no hazardous waste of any kind, no refrigerators, freezers or air conditioners.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT EVERYTHING MUST GO **INSIDE** THE DUMPSTER, AND **MAY NOT BE LEFT ALONGSIDE THE DUMPSTER.**

THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION IN THIS MATTER!

### **Recycling Is A Really Good Thing**



There is a wonderful facility available to all residents of Walnut Mountain for recycling. It is on Highway 52 E. It is the next right turn after the Sheriff's

Department and is called Cartecay Compactor. They will take everything with the exception of glass. All items may be put in the same container. Also remember the Mountain still has a bin by the dumpsters that takes all aluminum cans. The money collected from these cans is for the Gilmer County Fire Department. It only takes a little effort on the part of all and it would keep our dumpsters readily available for strictly **HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE.**

### **Walnut Mountain Wildlife Attack by J. Thomson**

Have you ever met Muttley on the mountain? If you have, you know that he is aptly named, having the characteristics of both the Beagle and German Shepherd stock of his parents. Muttley is best known, however, as an escape artist, insisting that his owners have simply provided a place for him to rest his head, receive copious amounts of love, and eat good tucker.

To be completely fair, we should consider Muttley's free spirit from his point of view. After being homeless for God knows how long, he knew he found the perfect place to call home when he rocked up to his owners' picket fence and howled for entry that auspicious evening. Now if barks could have been deciphered, he did try to explain that his free spirit and zeal for adventure would provide continuous fodder for his new owner's entertainment, as well as frustration.

Let's just put it this way. It would be an understatement to say that Muttley has a few stories to tell about his adventures on Walnut Mountain, but none that would rival the wildlife attack he experienced this morning! Set out for his AM walk with me, his human, my friend and his canine buddy Pepper. It was a quiet, beautiful morning on the ridge. Beginning the conversation, I asked my friend if she had seen any bears this year. Just as she was replying "Only one" the most violent ruckus came from below the ridge and within seconds Muttley shot over the crest running as fast as he could, away from his aggressor who was chasing him with lightning speed.

Dumbfounded, my friend and I stood frozen in utter shock and amazement. If a camera man had been there to capture the moment, we would have looked much like deer in the headlights. Not moving a muscle, we stood motionless while Muttley ran for his life. And then, all of the sudden, Muttley turned to retaliate! In disbelief, we simply could not process what was happening. Muttley's aggressor did not relent for one second, charging forward while Muttley dashed and darted wildly to avoid her attack.

Finally, my friend and I got our wits about us and moved quickly in the opposite direction. Continuing to watch the chase, we were captivated as Muttley realized that a large oak tree provided the perfect barrier around which he could toy with his nemesis. For a moment it looked a bit like a game children would play at recess, but Momma quickly tired of Muttley's antics and retreated to care for her offspring that she was clearly protecting below the ridge.

As my friend and I turned to leave the scene with Muttley and Pepper in tow, we laughed and recounted the incident so as to retain each moment of the excitement that had just enveloped us. As usual, about half a mile up Walnut Ridge my friend and I turned to return home. As we were almost home, all of a sudden out of the woods came Muttley's assailant like a bullet, chasing him with a vengeance, AGAIN! Muttley jumped a mile in the air and ran as fast as he could all the way back into our drive-way.

Whew! He escaped. But my friend and I were left in a petrifying position with Muttley's aggressor now turning on us. Once again with eyes wide and shock on our faces, we ran to the nearest house, never taking our eyes off of the wild animal. We couldn't believe what was happening. We were in a stand-off as the beast stomped the ground. "What are we going to do", I yelled to my friend. "How are we going to get out of this?"

Just in that moment we heard a car approaching. OH, an answered prayer! Waving our arms wildly, we stopped the approaching car telling the driver (another friend) frantically about the protective Momma and how she had just turned on us. Quickly we climbed into the safety of her car, and lo and behold when we looked up, the deer was gone. In disbelief, we tried to explain to our friend what had just happened. Suffice it to say, it would have been much more believable if we had lied and said it was a bear! As far as Muttley goes, it has been ages since he's escaped his fenced yard. But if you do happen see him sauntering up or down the road, just trust that he has escaped once again. And if you don't mind, please tell him to get his butt home!

**WINTER SURVIVAL AT WALNUT MOUNTAIN**

In order to survive what Mother Nature delivers, certain precautions should be taken:

1. Do you have ample heating fuel on hand?
2. Do you have an alternate heat source in case of an electrical failure?
3. Do you have an adequate supply of prescription drugs, canned food, staples, etc., to last 10 days?
4. If it is necessary for you to be at work everyday, do you have a 4-wheel drive vehicle plus chains and the know how of driving mountainous roads under adverse conditions?
5. Are you capable of walking to the Welcome Station from your home if necessary?

If you answered no to any of the above questions, you are not fully prepared for a safe passage through the winter months at Walnut Mountain. The weather service, be it radio, TV or newspaper, usually gives us ample notice of snow and/or ice. If you cannot handle the adverse weather conditions then perhaps you should make arrangements to leave the Mountain until conditions improve. We, who elect to live here 12 months of the year, should not expect our Maintenance Department to provide services that local, county or state governments cannot provide.

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**WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST PROPERTY OWNERS**

James & Bernette Purvis	Lot J338
Michael & Virginia Aiken	Lot M84 & 85
Henry & Chrissie Paseur	1489 Walnut Ridge
Michael & Sandra Hanna	1732 Walnut Ridge
Susan Pleasant	1368 Mountain Oak
Kenneth & Deborah Holt	1689 Walnut Ridge

**WINTERIZING YOUR SECOND HOME AT WALNUT MOUNTAIN**

To insure a more harmonious relationship with your home, here are a few basic tips that should be followed faithfully at each visit.

The single most important item to remember is to always turn off the water when leaving. The water flows through the system at approximately 150 to 200 pounds of pressure.

Come November or December, you not only turn off the water, but to prevent the water from freezing in the lines and toilets, anti-freeze must be added and the lowest line drained.

Flush the toilet to reduce the amount of water left in the tank. Add one cup of anti-freeze to the toilet bowl and one cup to the tank. One-fourth cup should go down all bathtub, shower, wash basin and kitchen sink drains. Do not add to dishwashers. Open all faucets.

Drain the hot water tank. If your tank is located inside the house, attach a water hose and drain out the nearest available window or door.

**CAUTION: Always pull the circuit breaker for the hot water tank before draining and never flip it back on until tank is completely filled again.**

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**Property Owners:** Please take note of the companies that advertise in The Mountaineer and utilize their services. Their ads substantially reduce our printing costs.

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## 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WALNUT MOUNTAIN GARAGE SALE

### RECYCLE      RENEW      RESULTS

This year due to abundant donations from generous residents, the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Garage Sale made \$2600.00. But turning all those discards into “treasures” and holding the two-day sale required a lot of time and organization. Therefore, my deep appreciation goes to Neil and Evelyn Schoonejongen, Don and Barbara Nickle, Dennis and Betty Terrell, Shyla Brenan, Lynn Robey, Jan Strawser, Carol and Ed Schaag, Ida Singleton, Anne Sweat, and Vicki Hale. From sorting, pricing, and selling they made this a very successful (profitable) event. As with past sales, the proceeds will go to upgrades for the clubhouse, and the “remains of the day” were sent to Faith Hope and Charity Thrift Shop in Ellijay. THANKS TO ALL.

## The Beauty of Our Mountain

Walnut Mountain is our home. For some of us it is full-time, for others it is a weekend or holiday retreat. However we view our mountain, we all want it to be a beautiful, clean environment where we can live and enjoy its many bounties (the spectacular views, forests, creeks, lakes and the beauty and sounds of nature). Over the last few years, as the economy has declined, forcing foreclosures and moves, part-time residents coming less often, and money not available for common area upkeep and redoes, we are seeing a general decline in the appearance of our Mountain. Your Beautification Committee is committed to improving the appearance of common areas and has a long list of projects we hope to accomplish over the next few months. We are asking all of you to help us by maintaining your homes and yards as you would like your neighbors to do. Maintaining our property is a year round effort even if you are not here often.

We all need to keep our yards clean by cutting grass and weeds often, removing trash, removing boats/trailers/campers that are visible from the street, removing fallen limbs and branches. Our Maintenance staff provides pickup of branches and limbs starting the 3rd

Monday of each month. Please place these in a neat stack beside the road. These branches and limbs are shredded into mulch which is available for your use and also is used to maintain the appearance of common areas. Everything we do to help the appearance of our homes and lots will help improve the look of the Mountain and make it more attractive to future buyers and sellers. This will improve the value of our property which is important to all of us.

Following is a list of projects the Beautification Committee will be focusing on over the next few months:

- Nature Trail at the top of Walnut Mountain Road leading to Walnut Ridge - Cleaning and upgrading the path.
- Waterfall Trail across from Lake McClure - Sign showing location and upgrading the path to the falls.
- Mailbox/Announcement Board Area - New landscaping, plantings and mulch.
- Pool Area - Removing railroad ties and adding new landscaping, plantings and mulch.
- Picnic Area - Removing fallen branches, cleaning creek, and remulching areas.
- Campground - Cleaning of entire area, including removal of branches, limbs and trees, clearing creek, adding mulch and upgrading electrical outlets at three campsites.
- Removal of fallen limbs, branches and trees along major roads, including cutting of overhanging limbs.

As you can see, this is a very aggressive list and we can use your help. The Beautification Committee is a **working** committee. We will be digging, planting, weeding, and cleaning, alongside our Maintenance staff. We have a very limited budget and plan to stretch it as far as possible. We would be pleased to have you join us. If you have an interest in becoming a member of our committee or have any suggestions or comments, please let Twila know. She will forward all messages and inquiries. We hope you will be pleased with our efforts and will see a great improvement in the look and feel of our Mountain.

Your Beautification Committee: Gina Bevino,  
Lynn Robey and Susan Harden, Chairperson

**IMPORTANT REMINDER**

Walnut Mountain has Maintenance staff available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in case of emergencies. Please be aware of your surroundings. If you see something that is out of place such as running water or fallen limbs/trees on homes (especially after a storm), call the Walnut Mountain main number (706-635-2565). You will be directed to the on-call personnel.

Remember, no open fires are allowed; you must have a cover of some kind. But, if you see a fire, please call 911 immediately. If a fire ever became out of control, we would all lose.

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**LOTS FOR SALE BY OWNER**

- Lot G-69 Mountain Oak Drive / \$6,000
- Lot B-74 South Lake View / \$5,000
- The following lots are off of Walnut Ridge:
- Lot M-216 Ridgehaven Lane / \$13,500
- Lot M-217 Ridgehaven Lane / \$13,500
- Lot M 218 Ridgehaven Lane / \$13,500
- Lot M 219 Ridgehaven Lane / \$13,500
- Lot M 220 Ridgehaven Lane / \$13,500

Please call [706-635-6329](tel:706-635-6329) or email us at [buddshigherground@gmail.com](mailto:buddshigherground@gmail.com). Thank you for your interest. Owners, Rex & Cathy Budd

\*\*\*\*\*

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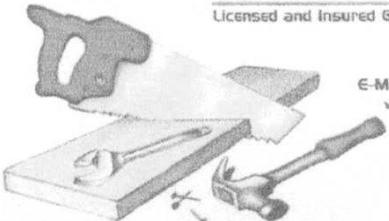
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# 911 House Numbers



About fifteen years ago the county came through Walnut Mountain and assigned a street number to each of the existing homes (about 200 at that time). Before that, homes were identified by a small sign with a lot number or, more often, no sign at all. We didn't have street signs either. Getting around Walnut Mountain was a real challenge! We have now grown to approximately 400 homes, and the posting of house numbers and installation of street signs have been a real help in getting around.

We all know how to get to our homes, even on a dark, rainy night, and we can probably give directions to someone who is coming for a visit even if we don't have a house number posted. This is all well and good, but to respond quickly in an emergency, the police and fire departments need to see a house number. Emergency response vehicles may not be able to contact the 911 center due to the terrain, so having your address properly posted may make a vital difference in emergency response time. As the members of my Architectural Control Committee travel the mountain checking on work requests, we notice many homes that do not have 911 address posted, or posted in the best manner. Please, if you haven't yet posted a house number, do it soon. The sign should be located near the street at the end of your driveway. Numbers should be reflective and clearly visible from either direction, day or night. It could make the difference between life and death.

Don Nickle, Architectural Control Chairman

## Hints from Horace

Septic Tank - Do not use powdered detergent or powdered dishwasher soap. Also, avoid Charmin or other 3-ply toilet tissue. The combination of these items creates a solid sludge that will allow a shovel to stand up in your tank.

Double Pane Windows - Do not use any cleaner that contains ammonia. Ammonia will eat into the seal around your windows and can cause your windows to cloud up so badly you can't see through them.

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# MERRY MERRY



The Walnut Mountain Recreation and Entertainment Committee will again be hosting the annual Christmas Party to be held at the clubhouse on Saturday, December 8, 2012. As last year, the catering will be done by the Canterbury Restaurant of Ellijay, and a form is included in this "Mountaineer" publication to



make your reservations. For those new to Walnut Mountain or those property owners who have never attended, this is a very entertaining event. With glittering holiday décor, great food, and great fun surrounding a certain yearly re-gifted Chinese Auction present, the Walnut Mountain Christmas Party has become a wonderful way to celebrate the Season. So please make plans to come and share in the friendship and fellowship that has become so much a part of living in this special community. SEE YOU THERE.

*Lois Hoffman*

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Walnut Mountain Property Owner's Association, Inc.  
Board of Directors 2012

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